

25 YEAR  
RE-REVIEW

26 April 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Operations

SUBJECT: Evaluation of FBIS Saigon Operation

1. FBIS Saigon reporting is valuable to ONE chiefly as background information. Saigon monitoring provides many political sidelights, local color reports and complete speech texts not reported elsewhere.

2. The closing of the Saigon bureau would affect most seriously reporting on North Vietnam. Since the recent closing of the American Consulate in Hanoi and the initiation of stepped-up Viet Minh radio propaganda activity, the importance of the bureau's contribution has increased. If DRV domestic programs are broadcast only on local frequencies, a possibility indicated by present Hanoi broadcasting patterns, only FBIS Saigon would be able to provide complete monitoring service.

3. ONE therefore favors the retention of the Saigon bureau, both for its present contribution and in the event of unexpected developments.

Sherman Kent  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

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